

Application No. 09/409,659
Amendment dated October 13, 2003
Reply to Office Action of July 7, 2003

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above referenced application in light of the amendments above and the remarks that follow.

Initially, the Examiner objected to the specification on the grounds that the title of the invention, IMAGING DEVICE, is not descriptive. Applicants have amended the title to be SEQUENTIAL SCAN IMAGING DEVICE. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the title be withdrawn.

Next, the Examiner rejected the disclosure because on pages 14 and 15, the second digital video processor is labeled "28" while in FIG. 1 it is labeled "31"; on page 16, line 10 the disclosure states "memory 27" which should be "DVP 27" and on page 23, line 16 the disclosure states "DVP 66" which should be "DVP 67". Applicants have amended the specification appropriately. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection to the disclosure be withdrawn.

Next, the Examiner objected to the Abstract as being longer than 150 words and including legal phraseology. Applicants have provided a replacement Abstract that overcomes the deficiencies of the original abstract. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this objection to the disclosure be withdrawn.

Next, the Examiner objected to the drawings because FIGS. 1 and 5 include reference sign 21 that is not mentioned in the description and that FIG. 4 includes reference signs A1/A2 that is not mentioned in the description. Applicants have provided replacement drawing sheets that no longer include reference signs 21 and A1/A2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully

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request that the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

Next, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4/1, 4/2, 5/1 and 5/2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamanaka (US 6,078,353). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Referring initially to independent claims 1 and 2, the Examiner contends that Yamanaka teaches all the elements of these claims including an imaging element, a light exposure controlling means, a driving means, a first storing means, a second storing means and sequential scanning means.

Applicants respectfully submit, however, that Yamanaka does not anticipate claims 1 and 2, as amended, because Yamanaka fails to teach a third memory for converting an interlaced image signal to a non-interlaced image signal. As described in the specification, (see page 14, line 14 to page 15, line 12), the odd-numbered field data and the even-numbered field data are converted to sequential scan imaging data for a single frame, (see FIG. 3(F)), and the sequential scan imaging data is then stored in a third memory 28. Thereafter, DVP 31 carries out outline enhancement, zoom processing, image position control, mirror image processing on the frame data read out from the third memory. In this way, image processing is performed on frame units based on exposures of the same time period thereby improving image quality. Yamanaka does not teach this. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 2 are distinguishable over

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Yamanaka and notice to the effect that these claims are in condition for immediate allowance is respectfully requested.

Claims 4/1, 4/2, 5/1 and 5/2 depend from independent claims 1 and 2, respectively, and define further features and structure of the method. Accordingly these claims are patentable for the reasons noted above with respect to claims 1 and 2 as well as for the additional features recited therein. Accordingly, notice to the effect that dependent claims 4/1, 4/2, 5/1 and 5/2 are in condition for immediate allowance is respectfully requested.

Next, the Examiner rejected claims 3/1 and 3/2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamanaka. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

While the Examiner concedes that Yamanaka does not disclose outline enhancement processing on the basis of the sequential scan imaging signal, the Examiner contends that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to include outline enhancement processing in the second DVP of Yamanaka.

Claims 3/1 and 3/2 depend from independent claims 1 and 2, respectively, and define further features and structure of the method. Accordingly these claims are patentable for the reasons noted above with respect to claims 1 and 2 as well as for the additional features recited therein. Accordingly, notice to the effect that dependent claims 3/1 and 3/2 are in condition for immediate allowance is respectfully requested.

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Applicants have made a diligent effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the application at an early date with a view towards issuing a favorable action thereon. If upon the review of the application, the Examiner is unable to issue an immediate notice of allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below with a view towards resolving the outstanding issues.

Early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

10-13-03



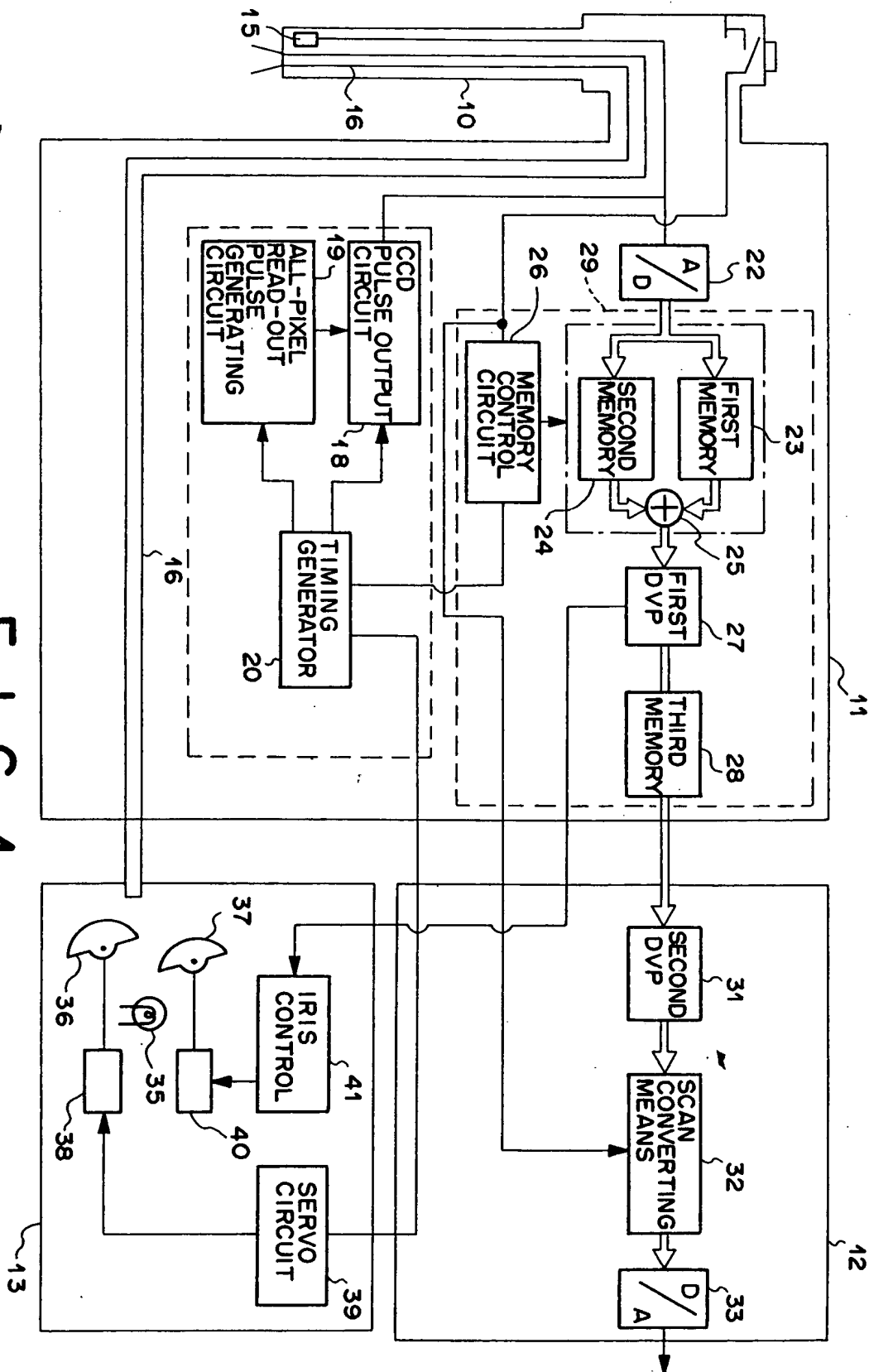
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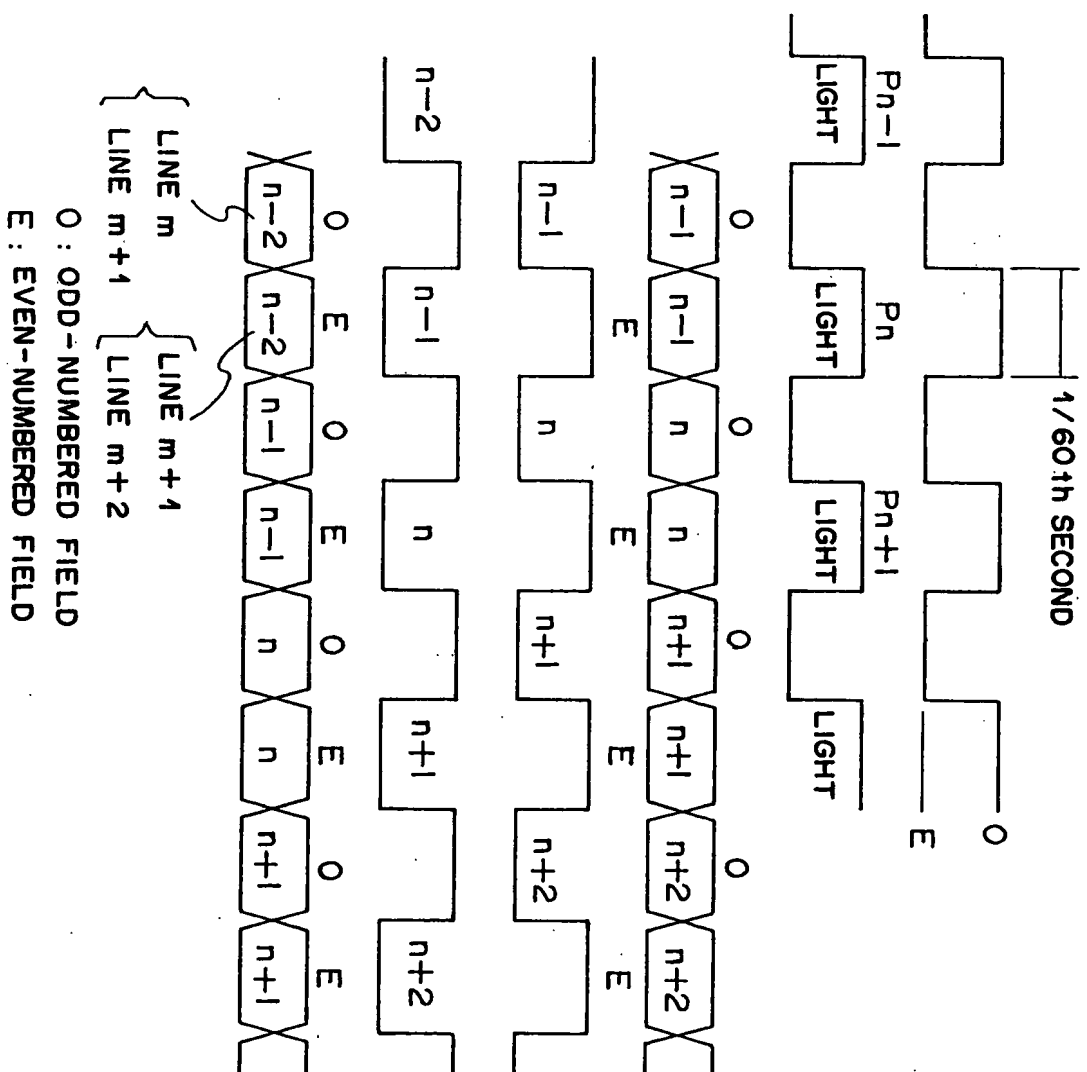
FIG. 1



Approved
12/04 *[Signature]*



- (A) FIELD O/E SIGNAL
- (B) LIGHT OUTPUT
- (C) CCD OUTPUT
- (D) WRITE FIRST MEMORY
- (E) WRITE SECOND MEMORY
- (F) MIXING CIRCUIT OUTPUT



F 1 G. 4



2

F I G . 5

